

Reducing the Weight of Schools bags of Children

312. SHRI C. O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the plight of school going children carrying heavy schools bags on their backs to schools everyday; and

(b) if so, the steps Government are considering to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The National Advisory Committee set up under Chairmanship of Prof. Yas Pal made a number of recommendations regarding the reduction of the academic burden on school children. In the meeting of the Central Advisory Board on Education State Governments expressed their broad agreement with the recommendations of the Yash Pal Committee. The Government have impressed upon the State Governments UTs from time to time for expeditious implementation of the recommendations. The implementation of these recommendations has been initiated by most States and Central Agencies. The New national Curriculum Framework for School Education brought out by NCERT recently emphasises reduction of curriculum load at all levels. This has been circulated to all State Governments/UTs for implementation of the suggestions made therein.

Allocation of Funds to Telugu Bala Mahila Pragati Pranganams

313. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government sanctioned Rs. 1.26 crores from the Norwegian Fund to Andhra Pradesh State Women Finance Cooperative Society for starting fresh courses at Telugu

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Bala Mahila Pragati Pranganams being organized in every district since August 1, 2000;

(b) if so, whether the Centre, in its recent directive, mentioned the allocation to be made to each district and the courses to be conducted;

(c) if so, total amount released so far and utilized by the State Government; and

(d) how many persons would be imparted training in each Pranganam in every year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) The Department of Women & Child Development has not sanctioned any grant from the Norwegian funds for the Andhra Pradesh State Women Finance Co-op. Society for starting fresh courses at Telgu Bala Mahila Pragati Pranganams.

However, under the Women's Economic programme which is partly assisted by the Norwegian Agency for Development (NORAD), an amount of Rs. 1.26 crores was sanctioned on 21.3.2000 to Andhra Pradesh Women Co-op Finance Corporation Ltd., Ameerpet, Hyderabad for Training women on 14 different trades at 68 different locations in the State.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

ICDS in Andhra Pradesh

314. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are implementing Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) in the country;

(b) if so, the salient features of the scheme;

(c) whether ICDS has been extended to Andhra Pradesh;

(d) if so, the details thereof;